

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 2, 5-9, and 21-29 were pending in this application. In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 6-9, 21, 23, 25, 26, and 28, and have canceled claims 22 and 24. Accordingly, claims 2, 5-9, 21, 23, and 25-29 will be pending upon entry of this Amendment.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 7-9, 22, and 23 for informalities and rejected claims 25 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite. The Examiner also rejected claims 2, 6-9, 21, 25, 28, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of Muller (DE 9,417,837), Davis (U.S. Patent No. 5,483,876), Dixon (U.S. Patent No. 3,958,740), Kato (U.S. Patent No. 4,509,638), and White (U.S. Patent No. 4,293,011).

In the Office Action, the Examiner did not assert any prior art rejections against claims 22-24 and 26. However, in the "Allowable Subject Matter" section of the Office Action on page 10, the Examiner appears to have inadvertently included the statements from the previous Office Action mailed January 13, 2006. Thus, Applicants have assumed that claims 22-24 and 26 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 6 to include all of the limitations of claim 22, have amended 23 into independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim 6, have amended claim 21

to include all of the limitations of claim 24, and have amended claim 26 into independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim 21. Applicants have also canceled claims 22 and 24. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that amended independent claims 6, 21, 23, and 26 are patentable over the prior art of record. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2, 5-9, 25, and 27-29 are also patentable due at least to their dependence on an allowable base claim.

Regarding the Examiner's objection to claims 7-9, 22, and 23 for informalities, Applicants have canceled claim 22, thereby rendering this objection moot with respect to that claim. Applicants have also amended claims 7-9 to correct the informalities to which the Examiner objected, now reciting "The method..." rather than "The robot unit..." Applicants have also amended claim 23 into independent form, thereby obviating this rejection.

Regarding the § 112 rejection, Applicants have amended claims 25 and 28 to clarify how the first and second pairs of opposing rollers contact the second beam unit. For example, Applicants have amended claim 25 to clarify that, *when the second beam unit is viewed in cross section*, the first pair of opposing guide rollers contacts a first distal end of the second beam unit and the second pair of opposing guide rollers contacts a second distal end of the second beam unit opposite to the first face. This configuration is shown, for example, in the cross sectional view of Figure 2 of the present application, where the pair of opposing rollers 21A-B contact a first distal end of beam unit 22 and the pair of opposing rollers 23A-B contact a second distal end of beam unit 22. Applicants have amended claim 28 similarly. Applicants therefore respectfully

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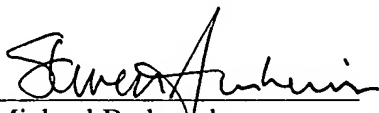
submit that amended claims 25 and 28 comply with § 112 and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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